

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 2/2/98 11:06:34 AM
FROM Barks-Ruggles, Erica
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT Ghana defense [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Sanders, Robin R.

CARBON_COPY Barks-Ruggles, Erica
Battenfield, Pat A.
Hendricks, Lori A.
Prendergast, John P.
Sanders, Robin R.
Wilson, Joseph C.

TEXT_BODY Robin - I know you have been swamped, so I thought I would take a stab at drafting the Ghana defense points for SRB to use in talking to Panetta and scheduling. Please edit/use as you see fit. I have asked State to produce the statistics on Goree Island to add to this at the bottom.

- Erica

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT Ghanadefense.doc
Justification for Ghana

Background: When FLOTUS advance team visited in 1997 they elected not to go to Ghana largely because of existing tensions according to the Embassy with Mrs. Rawlings. Mrs. Rawlings felt slighted when she was asked to step aside in favor of FLOTUS at the last minute at the Beijing women's conference. FLOTUS' last minute decision to go to Beijing meant that Mrs. Rawlings was not the keynote speaker after she had agreed to stand in for Mrs. Clinton and after she had spent months preparing a speech. She gave a truncated version of her speech

immediately after FLOUTS, which FLOTUS did not stay for -- adding, in Mrs.

Rawlings' mind, insult to injury. On reports that Rawlings has drug problems,

we have no decisive proof, only persistent and widespread rumors.

Ghana is one of the best examples of how an African dictatorship and command

economy can be turned into a successful democracy and market economy. In

December 1996, Ghana held its second multiparty national elections, run by an

independent electoral commission, in which the opposition won 42% of the vote and

which were judged amongst the freest and fairest ever held in Africa by

international observers. Ghana's GDP grew by over 5% in 1996, and it has

privatized 2/3 of its parastatals, liberalized trade and investment laws and

simplified and lowered tariffs.

Talking Points:

- * Ghana is a strong reformer and strong democracy - had one of best elections in

memory and is one of top twelve economic reformers on the continent.

- * Rumors of Rawlings' drug habits have not been substantiated. Not serving POTUS

well to avoid Ghana based on rumor.

- * FLOTUS did not go in part because her team told POTUS would go.

- * Ghana has already been told POTUS will come. Canceling now would cause a

serious rupture in bilateral relations.

- * Would need to replace Ghana with another stop as South Africans do NOT want to

be first stop.

- * Senegal is only other choice for a first stop (Uganda and conflict resolution

are not the right message to start the trip). If Senegal is first then trip ends

with conflict resolution and we lose Goree Island as a bookend.

- * Very little up-side in dropping Ghana and huge problems. Will forcefully argue

against dropping on both policy and scheduling (S.Africa/message) grounds.

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 3/6/98 8:10:43 PM
FROM Pascual, Carlos E.
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT FW: Clearance requested by COB today: Memo on Int Women's Day [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Busby, Scott W.

CARBON_COPY Barnett, Cheryl E.
Caravelli, John M.
Cohen, Julie E.
Courtney, William H.
Fooks, Michael D.
Fort, Jane B.
Pascual, Carlos E.
Silva, Mary Ann T.

TEXT_BODY Scott -- looks good. Clear for RUE. Could I get back a final copy of the fact sheet on Ukraine that I cleared earlier?

-----Original
Message-----
From: Fort, Jane B.
Sent: Friday, March 06, 1998
3:48 PM
To: Pascual, Carlos E.
Subject: FW: Clearance requested
by COB today: Memo on Int Women's Day [UNCLASSIFIED]
Importance: High

CP
-- you may already know all about this, but you need to look at VII of the EXE MEMO -- it's all all right with me, but could you clear on behalf of all of RUE. tks, ki

-----Original Message-----
From: Busby,
Scott W.
Sent: Friday, March 06, 1998 12:28 PM
To: Baker, James
E.; Courtney, William H.; Rudman, Mara E.; @LEGAL - Legal
Advisor;
@LEGISLAT - Legislative Affairs; @RUSSIA - Russia/Ukraine

Cc: @DEMOCRACY
- Dem/Human Affairs
Subject: Clearance requested by COB today:
Memo on Int Women's Day [UNCLASSIFIED]

Need your clearances on
the attached package by 5 p.m. today. This will be issued on March
11, at an event that POTUS will preside over to celebrate International
Women's Day. Thank you.

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT 1686 EXEC MEMO INT WOMENS DAY.doc

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Steps to Combat Violence Against Women and
Trafficking in Women and
Girls

As we celebrate International Women's Day this year on March 11,
1998, we
highlight the achievements of women around the world. We also
acknowledge that
there is much work yet to be done to assure that women's human
rights are
protected and respected. The momentum of the United Nations Fourth
World
Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 continues to encourage our
government, as
well as nations around the world, to fulfill our commitments to
improve the lives
of women and girls.

I have, once again, called upon the Senate to join 161 other countries
in
ratifying the women's human rights treaty -- the Convention on the
Elimination of
all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. This treaty is an
effective tool

which can be used to combat violence against women, reform unfair inheritance and property rights, and strengthen women's access to fair employment and economic opportunity. Ratification of this treaty will enhance our efforts to promote the status of women around the world. As we look at Afghanistan and the egregious human rights violations committed against women and girls at the hands of the Taliban, we recognize that this is an issue of global importance.

My Administration is working hard to eliminate violence against women, a despicable human rights violation, in all its forms. We are directing our efforts to combat this despicable human rights violation around the world and here in the United States. As part of my 1994 Crime Bill, I signed into law the Violence Against Women Act. This legislation declares certain forms of violence against women to be federal crimes and provides for critical assistance to states, tribes, and local communities in their efforts to respond to the scourge of violence against women. The Department of Justice is implementing the Violence Against Women Act and working with our communities to promote criminal prosecution and provide services to victims. And, through the Department of Health and Human Services, we have established for the first time a nationwide domestic violence hotline, so that women throughout the country can call one toll-free number and be connected to a local domestic violence support center. We have come a long way since 1994, and I am proud of our efforts.

Each day we learn more about the appalling abuses committed against women. In recent years, countries have begun to respond to calls for legislation and government programs addressing violence against women. The international community increasingly regards violence against women as a fundamental human rights violation, an impediment to a nation's development, and an obstacle to

women's full participation in democracy.

Today I am directing the President's Interagency Council on Women, the Secretary of State, and the Attorney General to continue and expand their work to combat violence against women here in the United States and around the world. We have made great since the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994, but there remains much to be done. Reauthorization of the VAWA, which will expire in the year 2000, is of paramount importance. We must also support efforts to restore the Act's protection for immigrant victims of domestic violence here in the United States, so that they will not be forced to choose between deportation and abuse.

The problem of trafficking in women and girls, an atrocious form of violence against women, has received a great deal of attention from the world community. This is an international problem with national implications. Here in the United States, we have seen cases of trafficking for the purposes of forced prostitution, sweatshop labor, and exploitative domestic servitude. The victims in these cases often believe they will be entering our country to secure a decent job. Instead, they are virtual prisoners, with no resources, little recourse, and no protection against violations of their human rights. This Administration is committed to combating trafficking in women and girls with a focus on the areas of prevention, victim assistance and protection, and enforcement. Our work on this issue has been enhanced by a strong partnership with non-governmental groups and the United States Congress.

On trafficking in women, I am directing the President's Interagency Council on Women, the Secretary of State, and the Attorney General to increase national and international awareness about the problems associated with trafficking in women and girls. First, I want to ensure that young women and girls are

educated about
trafficking so that they will not fall prey to traffickers tactics of
coercion,
fraud, and deceit. Second, in the unfortunate case that young women
and girls
are trafficked, I want to provide protection to victims. And finally, I
want to
enhance the capacity of law enforcement worldwide to prevent
women and girls from
being trafficked and ensure that traffickers are punished.

Therefore, I am directing:

I. The Attorney General to assess the effectiveness of the Violence
Against
Women Act and to make a recommendation regarding the
reauthorization of the Act,
which expires in FY 2000.

II. The Secretary of State, in combination with the Administrator of
Agency for
International Development, to strengthen and expand our efforts to
combat
violence against women in all its forms around the world. These
efforts will be
responsive to government and non-government requests for
partnerships, expert
guidance, and technical assistance to address this human rights
violation.

III. The President's Interagency Council on Women to coordinate the
United
States Government response on trafficking in women and girls, in
consultation
with non-governmental groups.

IV. The Attorney General to examine current treatment of victims of
trafficking
to determine ways to insure: the provision of services for victims and
witnesses
in settings that secure their safety; precautions for the safe return of
victims
and witnesses to their originating countries; witness cooperation in
criminal
trials against traffickers; and consideration of temporary and/or
permanent legal
status for victims and witnesses of trafficking who lack such legal
status.

V. The Attorney General to review existing United States criminal

laws and their current use to determine if they are adequate to prevent and deter trafficking in women and girls, to recommend any appropriate legal changes to insure that trafficking is criminalized in all its forms and that the consequences of trafficking are significant, and to review current prosecution efforts against traffickers in order to identify additional intelligence sources, evidentiary needs, and resource capabilities.

VI. The Secretary of State to use our consular presence around the world to work with other countries to develop strategies for protecting victims of trafficking, to work jointly with source, transit, and destination countries to expand and enhance anti-fraud training to stop the international movement of trafficked women, and to expand and enhance services for trafficking victims.

VII. The Secretary of State to coordinate an inter-governmental response to the Government of Ukraine's request to jointly develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to combat trafficking in women and girls from and to that country. The United States-Ukraine cooperation will serve as a model for a multi-disciplinary approach to combat trafficking that can be expanded to other countries.

VIII. The Secretary of State and the Attorney General to expand and strengthen assistance to the international community in developing and enacting legislation to combat trafficking in women and girls, to provide assistance to victims of trafficking and to continue to expand efforts to train legal and law enforcement personnel worldwide.

IX. The Secretary of State, in combination with the Director for the United States Information Agency to expand public awareness campaigns targeted to potential victims to warn them of the methods used by traffickers.

X. The President's Interagency Council on Women to convene a gathering of government and non-government representatives from source, transit, and destination countries and representatives from international organizations to call attention to the issue of trafficking in women and girls and to develop strategies for combating this fundamental human rights violation.

2

1686

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT 1686 POTUS MEMO.doc

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: THE EXECUTIVE CLERK

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER

SUBJECT: Executive Memorandum on Steps to Combat Violence Against Women and Trafficking in Women and Girls

Purpose

To direct relevant agencies on the above subject.

Background

You will be participating in an event on March 11, 1998 to celebrate International Women's Day. This year's event will focus on four issues: (1) trafficking in women and girls; (2) violence against women; (3) women in

Afghanistan; and (4) ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Your remarks, as well as the remarks of the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, will discuss initiatives we have undertaken or will be undertaking in each of these areas.

The attached memorandum addresses all of these issues. But it is primarily intended to provide specific direction to the relevant agencies on the steps they should take, both domestically and internationally, to combat trafficking in women and girls and violence against women. These steps include, inter alia: (1) directing the Attorney General to assess the effectiveness of the Violence Against Women Act ("VAWA") and to make a recommendation regarding the reauthorization of that Act; (2) directing the Secretary of State to more effectively coordinate efforts, especially with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, to combat violence against women around the world; (3) directing the Attorney General to review existing law and practice relating to the prosecution of those who traffic in women and children and the protection of victims of such practices; and (4) directing the Interagency Council on Women to convene an international gathering to develop strategies for combating trafficking in women and children.

We believe that the attached memorandum will be a useful vehicle for better coordinating and energizing our efforts against trafficking in women and children and violence against women.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the attached memorandum.

Attachment

Tab A Memorandum on Steps to Combat Violence Against Women and Trafficking in

Women and Girls

2

1686

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT 1686 BERGER MEMO.doc

Date

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL R. BERGER

THROUGH: ERIC SCHWARTZ

FROM: SCOTT BUSBY

SUBJECT: Steps to Combat Violence Against Women and
Trafficking in Women and
Girls

Attached is Memorandum to the President and a Memorandum to
Cabinet Members on
the above subjects. The Memorandum to Cabinet Members will be
announced by the
President during an event on March 11 commemorating International
Women's Day.

Concurrence by: Jamie Baker, Mara Rudman, Bill Courtney

RECOMMENDATION

That you forward the attached Memoranda.

Attachment

Tab I Memorandum to the President

Tab A Memorandum to Cabinet Members on Steps to Combat
Violence Against

Women and Trafficking in Women and Girls

1

1686

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 3/6/98 8:21:03 PM
FROM Letts, Kelly J.
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT FW: Package Concurrence SATURDAY - #1686 [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Ragan, Richard F.

CARBON_COPY

TEXT_BODY Forgot to CC' most important person

-----Original Message-----

From: Letts,
Kelly J.
Sent: Friday, March 06, 1998 8:21 PM
To: @LEGAL - Legal
Advisor; @LEGISLAT - Legislative Affairs
Cc: Rice, Edward A.; Gray,
Wendy E.
Subject: Package Concurrence SATURDAY - #1686
[UNCLASSIFIED]

Please
clear on the attached package before 10:30 a.m. Saturday (March 7).
This package needs to be in ExecSec before noon. Inter-Agency
clearance
has been obtained. POTUS signature is required by Tuesday. Also,
please make sure Wendy Gray is CC'd on any comments as she will
be
working with Richard Ragan to put this package together Saturday.
(This is a package on the same subject as my last e-mail, but the
packages contain different memo's to POTUS and letters.) Thanks.

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT

1686 POTUS MEMO1.doc

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER

SUBJECT: Executive Memorandum on Steps to Combat Violence
Against Women and
Trafficking in Women and Girls

Purpose

To direct relevant agencies on the above subject.

Background

You will be participating in an event on March 11, 1998, to celebrate International Women's Day. This year's event will focus on four issues: (1) trafficking in women and girls; (2) violence against women; (3) women in Afghanistan; and (4) ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Your remarks, as well as the remarks of the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, will discuss initiatives we have undertaken or will be undertaking in each of these areas.

The attached memorandum addresses all of these issues. But it is primarily intended to provide specific direction to the relevant agencies on the steps they should take, both domestically and internationally, to combat trafficking in women and girls and violence against women. These steps include, inter alia: (1) directing the Attorney General to assess the effectiveness of the Violence Against Women Act ("VAWA") and to make a recommendation regarding the reauthorization of that Act; (2) directing the Secretary of State to more effectively coordinate efforts, especially with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, to combat violence against women around the world; (3) directing the Attorney General to review

existing law and
practice relating to the prosecution of those who traffic in women and
children
and the protection of victims of such practices; and (4) directing the
Interagency Council on Women to convene an international gathering
to develop
strategies for combating trafficking in women and children.

We believe that the attached memorandum will be a useful vehicle for
better
coordinating and energizing our efforts against trafficking in women
and children
and violence against women.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the attached memorandum at Tab A.

Attachment
Tab A Memorandum for Signature

2

1686

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT 1686 EXEC MEMO INT WOMENS DAY1.doc

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Steps to Combat Violence Against Women and
Trafficking in Women and
Girls

As we celebrate International Women's Day this year on March 11,

1998, we highlight the achievements of women around the world. We also acknowledge that there is much work yet to be done to assure that women's human rights are protected and respected. The momentum of the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 continues to encourage our government, as well as nations around the world, to fulfill our commitments to improve the lives of women and girls.

I have, once again, called upon the Senate to join 161 other countries in ratifying the women's human rights treaty -- the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. This treaty is an effective tool which can be used to combat violence against women, reform unfair inheritance and property rights, and strengthen women's access to fair employment and economic opportunity. Ratification of this treaty will enhance our efforts to promote the status of women around the world. As we look at Afghanistan and the egregious human rights violations committed against women and girls at the hands of the Taliban, we recognize that this is an issue of global importance.

My Administration is working hard to eliminate violence against women in all its forms. Our efforts help to combat this human rights violation around the world and here in the United States. As part of my 1994 Crime Bill, I signed into law the Violence Against Women Act. This legislation declares certain forms of violence against women to be federal crimes and provides for critical assistance to states, tribes, and local communities in their efforts to respond to this problem. The Department of Justice is implementing the Violence Against Women Act and working with our communities to promote criminal prosecution and provide services to victims. Through the Department of Health and Human Services, we have established for the first time a nationwide domestic violence

hotline, so
that women throughout the country can call one toll-free number and
be connected
to a local domestic violence support center. We have come a long way
since 1994,
and I am proud of our efforts.

Each day recognition of the importance of this issue grows around the
world. In
recent years, countries have begun to respond to calls for legislation
and
government programs addressing violence against women. The
international
community increasingly regards violence against women as a
fundamental human
rights violation, an impediment to a nation's development, and an
obstacle to
women's full participation in democracy.

Today, I am directing the President's Interagency Council on Women,
the Secretary
of State, and the Attorney General to continue and expand their work
to combat
violence against women here in the United States and around the
world. We have
made great progress since the enactment of the Violence Against
Women Act in
1994, but there remains much to be done. We must continue to work
to implement
the Act fully, and to restore the Act's protection for immigrant victims
of
domestic violence here in the United States, so that they will not be
forced to
choose between deportation and abuse.

The problem of trafficking in women and girls, an insidious form of
violence
against women, has received a great deal of attention from the world
community.
This is an international problem with national implications. Here in
the United
States, we have seen cases of trafficking for the purposes of forced
prostitution, sweatshop labor, and exploitative domestic servitude.
The victims
in these cases often believe they will be entering our country to secure
a decent
job. Instead, they are virtual prisoners, with no resources, little
recourse,
and no protection against violations of their human rights. This
Administration

is committed to combating trafficking in women and girls with a focus on the areas of prevention, victim assistance and protection, and enforcement. Our work on this issue has been enhanced by a strong partnership with non-governmental groups and the United States Congress.

I am directing the President's Interagency Council on Women, the Secretary of State, and the Attorney General to increase national and international awareness about trafficking in women and girls. I want to ensure that young women and girls are educated about this problem so that they will not fall prey to traffickers tactics of coercion, violence, fraud, and deceit. I also want to provide protection to victims. And finally, I want to enhance the capacity of law enforcement worldwide to prevent women and girls from being trafficked and ensure that traffickers are punished.

Therefore, I am directing:

I. The Attorney General to ensure full implementation and enforcement of the Violence Against Women Act, and to work to restore the Act's protections for immigrant victims of domestic violence.

II. The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of Agency for International Development, to strengthen and expand our efforts to combat violence against women in all its forms around the world. These efforts will be responsive to government and non-government requests for partnerships, expert guidance, and technical assistance to address this human rights violation.

III. The President's Interagency Council on Women to coordinate the United States Government response on trafficking in women and girls, in consultation with non-governmental groups.

IV. The Attorney General to examine current treatment of victims of trafficking

to determine ways to insure: the provision of services for victims and witnesses in settings that secure their safety; precautions for the safe return of victims and witnesses to their originating countries; witness cooperation in criminal trials against traffickers; and consideration of temporary and/or permanent legal status for victims and witnesses of trafficking who lack legal status.

V. The Attorney General to review existing United States criminal laws and their current use to determine if they are adequate to prevent and deter trafficking in women and girls, to recommend any appropriate legal changes to insure that trafficking is criminalized and that the consequences of trafficking are significant, and to review current prosecution efforts against traffickers in order to identify additional intelligence sources, evidentiary needs, and resource capabilities.

VI. The Secretary of State to use our consular presence around the world to work with source, transit and destination countries to develop strategies for protecting and assisting victims of trafficking, and to expand and enhance anti-fraud training to stop the international movement of trafficked women.

VII. The Secretary of State to coordinate an inter-governmental response to the Government of Ukraine's request to jointly develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to combat trafficking in women and girls from and to that country. The United States-Ukraine cooperation will serve as a model for a multi-disciplinary approach to combat trafficking that can be expanded to other countries.

VIII. The Secretary of State in coordination with the Attorney General, to expand and strengthen assistance to the international community in developing and enacting legislation to combat trafficking in women and girls, to provide assistance to victims of trafficking and to continue to expand efforts to

train
legal and law enforcement personnel worldwide.

IX. The Secretary of State and the Director for the United States Information Agency, to expand public awareness campaigns targeted to warn potential victims of the methods used by traffickers.

X. The President's Interagency Council on Women to convene a gathering of government and non-government representatives from source, transit, and destination countries and representatives from international organizations to call attention to the issue of trafficking in women and girls and to develop strategies for combating this fundamental human rights violation.

2

1686

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT 1686 BERGER MEMO1.doc

March 7, 1998

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL R. BERGER

THROUGH: ERIC SCHWARTZ

FROM: SCOTT BUSBY

SUBJECT: Steps to Combat Violence Against Women and Trafficking in Women and Girls

Attached is memorandum to the President and a memorandum to Cabinet Members on the above subjects. The memorandum to Cabinet Members will be announced by the President during an event on March 11 commemorating International

Women's Day.

Concurrence by: Jamie Baker, Mara Rudman, Bill Courtney

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the attached memorandum to the President at Tab I.

Attachments

Tab I Memorandum to the President

Tab A Memorandum to Cabinet Members

1

1686

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 3/7/98 1:58:37 PM
FROM Ragan, Richard F.
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT FW: Package Concurrence SATURDAY - #1686 [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Gray, Wendy E.

CARBON_COPY
TEXT_BODY

-----Original Message-----

From: Baker, James E.

Sent: Saturday,
March 07, 1998 1:36 PM

To: @DEMOCRACY - Dem/Human Affairs; Rudman,
Mara E.; McCarthy, Mary O.

Cc: @LEGAL - Legal Advisor

Subject: FW:

Package Concurrence SATURDAY - #1686 [UNCLASSIFIED]

1. My comments
are noted in the document below.

2. With respect to the first
bullet. The President should not direct the AG to follow the law.
They have both sworn constitutional oaths to do so. This bullet
should be deleted.

3. Unless Intelligence Programs and DCI have
cleared the reference to intelligence sources being directed toward
this issue by the AG, I do not believe you should include intelligence
sources within the scope of V. The President has a process for
directing
intelligence priorities. This isn't it.

4. My concurrence
is subject to State and Justice concurrence, including in the case
of Justice an official who can clear on behalf of the AG.

-----Original Message-----

From: Ragan, Richard F.
Sent: Saturday,
March 07, 1998 12:16 PM
To: Baker, James E.
Subject: FW: Package
Concurrence SATURDAY - #1686 [UNCLASSIFIED]

as discussed...one
more to follow

-----Original Message-----

From: Letts, Kelly
J.
Sent: Friday, March 06, 1998 8:24 PM
To: @RUSSIA - Russia/Ukraine
Cc: Ragan,
Richard F.; Gray, Wendy E.
Subject: FW: Package Concurrence SATURDAY
- #1686 [UNCLASSIFIED]

I am losing my brain tonight. I forgot
to include your office for concurrence on the attached package which
requires clearance Saturday by 10:30. See below. Thanks.

-----Original
Message-----

From: Letts, Kelly J.
Sent: Friday, March 06, 1998
8:21 PM
To: @LEGAL - Legal Advisor; @LEGISLAT - Legislative Affairs
Cc: Rice,
Edward A.; Gray, Wendy E.
Subject: Package Concurrence SATURDAY
- #1686 [UNCLASSIFIED]

Please clear on the attached package before
10:30 a.m. Saturday (March 7). This package needs to be in ExecSec
before noon. Inter-Agency clearance has been obtained. POTUS
signature
is required by Tuesday. Also, please make sure Wendy Gray is CC'd
on any comments as she will be working with Richard Ragan to put
this package together Saturday. (This is a package on the same
subject as my last e-mail, but the packages contain different memo's
to POTUS and letters.) Thanks.

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT

1686 POTUS MEMO1.doc

ACTION**MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT****FROM: SAMUEL BERGER****SUBJECT: Executive Memorandum on Steps to Combat Violence
Against Women and
Trafficking in Women and Girls****Purpose**

To direct relevant agencies on the above subject.

Background

You will be participating in an event on March 11, 1998, to celebrate International Women's Day. This year's event will focus on four issues: (1) trafficking in women and girls; (2) violence against women; (3) women in Afghanistan; and (4) ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Your remarks, as well as the remarks of the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, will discuss initiatives we have undertaken or will be undertaking in each of these areas.

The attached memorandum addresses all of these issues. But it is primarily intended to provide specific direction to the relevant agencies on the steps they should take, both domestically and internationally, to combat trafficking in women and girls and violence against women. These steps include, inter alia: (1) directing the Attorney General to assess the effectiveness of the Violence Against Women Act ("VAWA") and to make a recommendation regarding the reauthorization of that Act; (2) directing the Secretary of State to

continue and
expand their efforts to coordinate, especially with the Administrator of
the
United States Agency for International Development, to combat
violence against
women around the world; (3) directing the Attorney General to review
existing law
and practice relating to the prosecution of those who traffic in women
and
children and the protection of victims of such practices; and (4)
directing the
Interagency Council on Women to convene an international gathering
to develop
strategies for combating trafficking in women and children.

We believe that the attached memorandum will be a useful vehicle for
better
coordinating and energizing our efforts against trafficking in women
and children
and violence against women.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the attached memorandum at Tab A.

Attachment
Tab A Memorandum for Signature

2

1686

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT 1686 EXEC MEMO INT WOMENS DAY1.doc

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Steps to Combat Violence Against Women and
Trafficking in Women and
Girls

As we celebrate International Women's Day this year on March 11, 1998, we highlight the achievements of women around the world. We also acknowledge that there is much work yet to be done to assure that women's human rights are protected and respected. The momentum of the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 continues to encourage our government, as well as nations around the world, to fulfill our commitments to improve the lives of women and girls.

I have, once again, called upon the Senate to join 161 other countries in ratifying the women's human rights treaty -- the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. This treaty is an effective tool which can be used to combat violence against women, reform unfair inheritance and property rights, and strengthen women's access to fair employment and economic opportunity. Ratification of this treaty will enhance our efforts to promote the status of women around the world. As we look at Afghanistan and the egregious human rights violations committed against women and girls at the hands of the Taliban, we recognize that this is an issue of global importance.

My Administration is working hard to eliminate violence against women in all its forms. Our efforts help to combat this human rights violation around the world and here in the United States. As part of my 1994 Crime Bill, I signed into law the Violence Against Women Act. This legislation declares certain forms of violence against women to be federal crimes and provides for critical assistance to states, tribes, and local communities in their efforts to respond to this

problem. The Department of Justice is implementing the Violence Against Women Act and working with our communities to promote criminal prosecution and provide services to victims. Through the Department of Health and Human Services, we have established for the first time a nationwide domestic violence hotline, so that women throughout the country can call one toll-free number and be connected to a local domestic violence support center. We have come a long way since 1994, and I am proud of our efforts.

Each day recognition of the importance of this issue grows around the world. In recent years, countries have begun to respond to calls for legislation and government programs addressing violence against women. The international community increasingly regards violence against women as a fundamental human rights violation, an impediment to a nation's development, and an obstacle to women's full participation in democracy.

Today, I am directing the President's Interagency Council on Women, the Secretary of State, and the Attorney General to continue and expand their work to combat violence against women here in the United States and around the world. We have made great progress since the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994, but there remains much to be done. We must continue to work to implement the Act fully, and to restore the Act's protection for immigrant victims of domestic violence here in the United States, so that they will not be forced to choose between deportation and abuse.

The problem of trafficking in women and girls, an insidious form of violence against women, has received a great deal of attention from the world community. This is an international problem with national implications. Here in the United States, we have seen cases of trafficking for the purposes of forced prostitution, sweatshop labor, and exploitative domestic servitude.

The victims in these cases often believe they will be entering our country to secure a decent job. Instead, they are virtual prisoners, with no resources, little recourse, and no protection against violations of their human rights. This Administration is committed to combating trafficking in women and girls with a focus on the areas of prevention, victim assistance and protection, and enforcement. Our work on this issue has been enhanced by a strong partnership with non-governmental groups and the United States Congress.

I am directing the President's Interagency Council on Women, the Secretary of State, and the Attorney General to increase national and international awareness about trafficking in women and girls. I want to ensure that young women and girls are educated about this problem so that they will not fall prey to traffickers tactics of coercion, violence, fraud, and deceit. I also want to provide protection to victims. And finally, I want to enhance the capacity of law enforcement worldwide to prevent women and girls from being trafficked and ensure that traffickers are punished.

Therefore, I am directing:

[I don't know what second clause means. Are we asking her to seek legislation in an area, or follow existing law. If the former say it. If the latter I would delete.]II. The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of Agency for International Development, to strengthen and expand our efforts to combat violence against women in all its forms around the world. These efforts will be responsive to government and non-government requests for partnerships, expert guidance, and technical assistance to address this human rights violation.

III. The President's Interagency Council on Women to coordinate the United States Government response on trafficking in women and girls, in

consultation
with non-governmental groups. [Okay legally provided this Council is
entirely
made up of governmental employees.]

IV. The Attorney General to examine current treatment of victims of
trafficking
including: the provision of services for victims and witnesses in
settings that
secure their safety; precautions for the safe return of victims and
witnesses to
their originating countries; witness cooperation in criminal trials
against
traffickers; and consideration of temporary and/or permanent legal
status for
victims and witnesses of trafficking who lack legal status.

V. The Attorney General to review existing United States criminal
laws and their
current use to determine if they are adequate to prevent and deter
trafficking in
women and girls, to recommend any appropriate legal changes to
insure that
trafficking is criminalized and that the consequences of trafficking are

significant, and to review current prosecution efforts against
traffickers in
order to identify additional evidentiary needs, and resource
capabilities.

VI. The Secretary of State to use our presence around the world to
work with
source, transit and destination countries to develop strategies for
protecting
and assisting victims of trafficking, and to expand and enhance anti-
fraud
training to stop the international movement of trafficked women.

VII. The Secretary of State to coordinate an inter-governmental
response to the
Government of Ukraine's request to jointly develop and implement a
comprehensive
strategy to combat trafficking in women and girls from and to that
country. The
United States-Ukraine cooperation will serve as a model for a multi-
disciplinary
approach to combat trafficking that can be expanded to other
countries.

VIII. The Secretary of State in coordination with the Attorney

General, to
expand and strengthen assistance to the international community in
developing and
enacting legislation to combat trafficking in women and girls, to
provide
assistance to victims of trafficking and to continue to expand efforts to
train
legal and law enforcement personnel worldwide.

IX. The Secretary of State and the Director for the United States
Information

Agency, to expand public awareness campaigns targeted to warn
potential victims
of the methods used by traffickers.

X. The President's Interagency Council on Women to convene a
gathering of
government and non-government representatives from source, transit,
and
destination countries and representatives from international
organizations to
call attention to the issue of trafficking in women and girls and to
develop
strategies for combating this fundamental human rights violation.

2

1686

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT 1686 BERGER MEMO1.doc

March 7, 1998

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL R. BERGER

THROUGH: ERIC SCHWARTZ

FROM: SCOTT BUSBY

SUBJECT: Steps to Combat Violence Against Women and
Trafficking in Women and
Girls

Attached is memorandum to the President and a memorandum to Cabinet Members on the above subjects. The memorandum to Cabinet Members will be announced by the President during an event on March 11 commemorating International Women's Day.

Concurrence by: Jamie Baker, Mara Rudman, Bill Courtney

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the attached memorandum to the President at Tab I.

Attachments

Tab I Memorandum to the President

Tab A Memorandum to Cabinet Members

1

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 3/11/98 5:50:55 PM

FROM Wozniak, Natalie S.

CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT RBTP and the First Lady on International Women's Day [UNCLASSIFIED]

TO Crowley, Philip J.
Dehqanzada, Yahya A.
Luzzatto, Anne R.
Rubin, Eric S.
Wozniak, Natalie S.
Benjamin, Daniel
Blinken, Antony J.
Gobush, Matthew N.
Gray, Wendy E.
Halperin, David E.
LaFleur, Vinca S.
Leavy, David C.
Widmer, Edward L.
Miyaoka, Lester H.

CARBON_COPY

TEXT_BODY Remarks by the President
RBTP and the First Lady on International
Women's Day

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT International Women's Day.doc
THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release March 11, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AND THE FIRST LADY
ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The East Room

2:47 P.M. EST

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you and welcome to the East Room of the White House for this very important occasion. The President and I are pleased to be joined by so many people who have worked tirelessly to lift up the lives of women and girls here and around the world.

There are so many of you, I wish I could acknowledge every single one of you. I'm unable to do that and so let me just acknowledge a few of you. In addition to those who have already been introduced, I'm delighted that Secretary Shalala is here, accompanied by her counterpart, the Russian Minister of Health, as part of their continuing negotiations; Administrator Browner; Administrator Barshefsky. And we're pleased to have two members of Congress, two others were unable to stay, but I'm delighted that Congresswoman Pelosi and Congresswoman Millender-McDonald are here. And we're sorry that Congresswoman Lofgren and Morello were unable to stay. But thank you both for coming.

The Administration of USAID, Brian Atwood; Deputy Secretary of Labor Kitty Higgins; USIA Director Joe Duffy; VOA Director Evelyn Lieberman; Ambassador Linda Tarr-Whelan; Theresa Loar who is the senior coordinator for International Women's Issues and Director of the President's Interagency Council on Women. And we're also pleased that we're joined by the United Nations Deputy Secretary General Louise Frechette.

In addition, I look out at this audience and see so many of you who have been advocates and workers in the trenches and on the front lines on behalf of human rights and women's rights for many, many years. And we are grateful that you could be here today in honor of International Women's Day.

We have come together this afternoon to celebrate what we have done and what we must still do to ensure that all over this Earth women's rights are protected, women's voices are heard, and women's full participation is guaranteed.

Next week, the United Nations Human Rights Commission will gather in Geneva to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and honor all who are helping to fulfill its promise. Woven into that document are timeless beliefs that must always set the standard for how we treat each other in every part of the world. The Declaration puts it simply: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and right. All human beings -- not just men, not just those particular skin colors or religions. And on International Women's Day, we want to commit ourselves to expanding the circle of human dignity to encompass all human beings -- men and women, boys and girls.

At the United Nations 4th World Conference on Women, I remember very well looking out at delegates from 189 different countries, all united by a common vision. And look at the progress we have made in fulfilling how that vision became an agenda and then acting on that agenda. Even in the short time since Beijing, governments, nongovernmental organizations and individuals have made tremendous progress.

I have met women all over the world, as many of you have, who are working to end domestic violence, who are working to bring microcredit into every village that can be reached. I have seen women who, all of a sudden, are for the first time in their lives able to access health care. And I've heard and seen many eloquent women and men speaking out on the importance of recognizing women's rights.

I've also been very impressed by those of you who have worked to remind us of how much we have yet to do and how much our country, the United States, can contribute to the unfinished agenda. Our nation's assistance and leadership is essential. I have visited women's health care clinics that we have helped open

in Central Asia. I have talked with refugees from war and genocide who are rebuilding their lives in Rwanda and Bosnia, thanks to our assistance. I have learned about a joint campaign to warn women and girls in Ukraine about those who might exploit them through trafficking. All because our government, universities, hospitals, businesses, NGOs, citizens, all are committed to expanding that circle of human dignity to every woman.

So we may celebrate today, but we also should challenge ourselves, for there is much more to be done. If the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is going to keep its promise to all women, then all women must hear that message and be empowered to act on it.

One of the most moving experiences I had was in New Delhi, when I met a young Indian woman who gave me a poem she had written. And in it she said: Too many women in too many countries speak the same language of silence. There must be freedom if we are to speak, and, yes, there must be power if we are to be heard. We must give voice to women in Afghanistan, where women are brutalized and silenced by the Taliban -- (applause) -- where girls are barred from school, where thousands of women cannot go to work, leave home alone or get the health care they need. And where those who don't follow every rule of attire or conduct are punished with beatings, whippings, even death. We must give voice to the more than one million women who are trafficked every year in the former Soviet Union and all around the world. (Applause.)

These women and girls are desperate for economic opportunity. They think they're applying for jobs as babysitters, waitresses and sales clerks. Many think they are following their dreams and, instead, they find themselves in a nightmare, sold as part of an international trade in human beings and forced into modern day slavery. Imprisoned by employers, they are often not seen, let alone heard. Lured by organized crime operations, they represent an international problem that, like drug trafficking, requires an international solution.

We must give voice to women plagued by violence in all its forms. It doesn't matter if it's by law or custom, ignorance or inaction. It doesn't matter if it's in war or peace, in our homes or our streets. No woman should ever be degraded by violence. And violence against women must never again be pushed aside as trivial or explained away as cultural. Let us call it what it is.

(Applause.)

Violence against women is a violation of human rights. (Applause.)

And as we work to give voice to all women, let us judge ourselves not only by what we choose to say, by not only what we choose to see, but by what we choose to do in our nation and around the world.

And few people have done more for women and girls than our next speaker. Through her words, her deeds and her leadership, Secretary Madeleine Albright has ensured that the issues affecting women are exactly what they should be -- a part of American foreign policy and an international priority.

Please join me in welcoming Secretary Albright. (Applause.)

* * * * *

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Thank you very much, Doctor. And to all our distinguished guests here today, let me welcome you and say that I have rarely enjoyed anything in this room as much as I have what has already happened.

I've told this story before, but I feel just like I did the first time I gave remarks, a speech, as a public official. It was at one of these civic banquets, and it started at 6:00 p.m. in the evening. Everyone in the audience was introduced, hundreds of people -- except three people and they went home mad. (Laughter.) Five people spoke before me. I got up to speak at a quarter to 10:00, and the man who introduced me did not do nearly as good a job as our distinguished guest from Thailand -- he said, "You know, you could stop here and have had a very nice evening." (Laughter.) Well, we could certainly stop here and have had a very fine occasion.

Let me begin by thanking the Secretary General for being here. We've had a very good meeting, just before we came over here to talk about our shared goal of preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and of securing Iraq's compliance with its obligations under the U.N. Security Council resolutions.

The Secretary General deserves the thanks of all Americans for securing the agreement with the Iraqi government to open all sites for inspection.

(Applause.) The commitments made to him as well as last week's successful U.N. inspections in sites that had previously been closed are quite significant. They must be carried out. The last six days must be replicated in the coming six months. And the United States must remain vigilant to see that that occurs.

Let me say, since we're honoring women today, in case you all missed it and you want to be reminded what the stakes are in what is going on now, I commend to you the Op-Ed article from the distinguished British physician in the hometown paper here today, discussing the consequences of the use of chemical weapons.

Mr. Secretary General, your work is important, and we intend to see that you succeed. (Applause.)

Let me also say that the United Nations is an invaluable partner in an increasingly interdependent world where we have to work together on things, as evidenced by the presence here today of members of the Diplomatic Corps, the Russian Health Minister, our distinguished physician from Thailand, and so many people from the U.N., and those of you in NGOs who work around the world. If the United States expects to continue to exercise a leadership role in a way that benefits our own people in the 21st century, we have got to pay our U.N. dues and fulfill our responsibilities. (Applause.)

The Secretary General has supported the reform of the U.N. in positive ways, and I'm doing my best to get legislation through the Congress, which will fulfill our responsibilities to the United Nations, to the IMF, to the cause of U.N. reform.

I'm very proud to be here with all of you today to celebrate your progress and to chart our course to the future. I especially thank the members of Congress who are here and those whom they represent who couldn't be present for their support and leadership. I thank the First Lady, the Secretary of State, and the Attorney General for the accomplishments of the last five years. I think it's fair to say that as long as I live, I will always look back on the First Lady's speech at Beijing as one of the high-water marks of our public service in this White House. (Applause.)

You know, we always say that human rights must be a central pillar of America's foreign policy, but that is meaningless if those rights are not fully enjoyed by

half the people on the planet. Secretary Albright has already discussed our assistance to Afghan women and girls who have suffered much under the Taliban. Today I want to announce some further actions to advance your cause and our cause.

First, I'm instructing Secretary Albright and our AID Administrator, Brian Atwood, to expand our international efforts to combat violence against women. All too often, we know violence limits the choices open to women and young girls, damaging their health, disrupting their lives, obstructing their full participation in society. We will provide \$10 million to strengthen partnerships with governments and NGOs to help them to fight violence against women everywhere. (Applause.)

Second, I am launching a variety of steps to combat the inhumane practice of trafficking of women. I've asked our Attorney General to make sure that our own laws are adequate to the task we face here at home; that trafficking is prevented, victims are protected, traffickers are punished. And we will use our consular and law enforcement presence in other nations to combat trafficking worldwide, to assist victims, improve legislation, train judges and law enforcement in other lands. We will step up our public education campaigns abroad in an attempt to stop trafficking at its source.

Secretary Albright has already discussed her partnership with the government of Ukraine to jointly develop a comprehensive strategy to fight trafficking to and from that country with the hope that our cooperation will become a model for other nations across the globe.

Finally, I have asked my Interagency Council on Women to convene an international conference to cast a spotlight on this human rights atrocity and develop new strategies to combat it. One important tool, as the Secretary General has reminded us, for making progress on these issues is the Women's Human Rights Treaty, the U.N. convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. It has the cumbersome acronym of CEDAW, but its message is very simple.

Again, I thank the Secretary General for his leadership. I ask you to think about this convention and its impact. It has a proven record of helping women

around the world to combat violence, gain economic opportunity, strike against discriminatory laws. Its provisions are consistent with United States law, which already provides strong protections for women. It offers a means for reviewing and encouraging other nations' compliance.

Yet, because of our historic and often manifest allergy to joining international conventions, we remain alone in our hemisphere, alone among the industrialized nations of the world, apart from 161 other nations alongside nations like Sudan and North Korea in not ratifying this treaty.

This is not an issue of party, but of principle. Today, I am sending a letter to the Senate leadership asking them to ratify the treaty. And I ask the Senate -- (applause) -- I ask the Senate to do so this year. We signed this treaty in the late 1970s. Finally, after we took office, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted the treaty out of committee with a bipartisan vote in 1994. If we are going to be true to our own legacy of leadership in human rights, we must ratify this treaty. (Applause.)

When you look ahead to this new century and new millennium and you ask yourselves what you would like the story of the next 100 years to be, surely all of us want one big chapter to be about how, finally, in all nations of the world, people of all races and ethnic groups, of many different religious persuasions and cultural practices came together to guarantee that every young girl got a chance to grow up to live up to the fullest of her abilities and to live out her dreams. Let that be our mission as we leave today.

Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

3:24 P.M. EST

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 3/11/98 6:47:30 PM

FROM Wozniak, Natalie S.

CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT Memorandum for Department and Agency Heads re Steps to Combat Violence Against Women and Trafficking in Women and Girls [UNCLASSIFIED]

TO Crowley, Philip J.
Dehqanzada, Yahya A.
Luzzatto, Anne R.
Rubin, Eric S.
Wozniak, Natalie S.
Benjamin, Daniel
Blinken, Antony J.
Gobush, Matthew N.
Gray, Wendy E.
Halperin, David E.
LaFleur, Vinca S.
Leavy, David C.
Widmer, Edward L.
Miyaoka, Lester H.

CARBON_COPY

TEXT_BODY Letter to Department/Agency Heads
Memorandum for Department and
Agency Heads re Steps to Combat Violence Against Women and Trafficking
in Women and Girls

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT Violence Against Women.doc
THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release March 11, 1998

March 11, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE AGENCY
FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
THE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES
INFORMATION AGENCY

SUBJECT: Steps to Combat Violence Against Women and Trafficking in Women and Girls

As we celebrate International Women's Day today, we highlight the achievements of women around the world. We also acknowledge that there is much work yet to be done to ensure that women's human rights are protected and respected. The momentum generated by the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 continues to encourage our government, as well as nations around the world, to fulfill our commitments to improve the lives of women and girls.

I have, once again, called upon the Senate to give its advice and consent to ratification to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, thus enabling the United States to join 161 other countries in support of the Convention. This Convention is an effective tool that can be used to combat violence against women, reform unfair inheritance and property rights, and strengthen women's access to fair employment and economic opportunity.

Ratification of this Convention will enhance our efforts to promote the status of women around the world. As we look at Afghanistan and the egregious human rights violations committed against women and girls at the hands of the Taliban, we recognize that this is an issue of global importance.

My Administration is working hard to eliminate violence against women in all its forms. Our efforts help to combat this human rights violation around the world and here in the United States. As part of the 1994 Crime Bill, I signed into law the Violence Against Women Act. This legislation declares certain forms of violence against women to be Federal crimes and provides for critical assistance to States, tribes, and local communities in their efforts to respond to this problem. The Department of Justice is implementing the Violence Against Women Act and working with communities across the country to promote criminal prosecution and provide services to victims. Through the Department of Health and Human Services, we have established for the first time a nationwide domestic violence hotline, so that women throughout the country can call one toll-free number and be connected to a local domestic violence support center. We have come a long way since 1994, and I am proud of our efforts.

Each day recognition of the importance of this issue grows around the world. In recent years, many countries have begun to respond to calls for legislation and government programs addressing violence against women. The international community increasingly regards violence against women as a fundamental human rights violation, an impediment to a nation's development, and an obstacle to women's full participation in democracy.

Today I am directing the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the President's Interagency Council on Women to continue and expand their work to combat violence against women here in the United States and around the world. We have made great progress since the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994, but there remains much to be done. We must continue to work to implement the Act fully and to restore the Act's protection for immigrant victims of domestic violence here in the United States so that they will not be forced to choose between deportation and abuse.

The problem of trafficking in women and girls, an insidious form of violence, has received a great deal of attention from the world community. This is an

international problem with national implications. Here in the United States, we have seen cases of trafficking for the purposes of forced prostitution, sweatshop labor, and exploitative domestic servitude. The victims in these cases often believe they will be entering our country to secure a decent job. Instead, they are virtual prisoners, with no resources, little recourse, and no protection against violations of their human rights. My Administration is committed to combating trafficking in women and girls with a focus on the areas of prevention, victim assistance and protection, and enforcement. Our work on this issue has been enhanced by a strong partnership with nongovernmental groups and the U.S. Congress.

I am also directing the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the President's Interagency Council on Women to increase national and international awareness about trafficking in women and girls. I want to ensure that young women and girls are educated about this problem so that they will not fall prey to traffickers' tactics of coercion, violence, fraud, and deceit.

I also want to provide protection to victims. And finally, I want to enhance the capacity of law enforcement worldwide to prevent women and girls from being trafficked and ensure that traffickers are punished.

Therefore, I direct:

I. The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the Agency for International Development, to strengthen and expand our efforts to combat violence against women in all its forms around the world. These efforts should be responsive to government and nongovernment requests for partnerships, expert guidance, and technical assistance to address this human rights violation.

II. The President's Interagency Council on Women to coordinate the United States Government response on trafficking in women and girls, in consultation with nongovernmental groups.

III. The Attorney General to examine current treatment of victims of trafficking including to determine ways to insure: the provision of services for victims and witnesses in settings that secure their safety; precautions for the safe return of victims and witnesses to their originating countries; witness cooperation in

criminal trials against traffickers; and consideration of temporary and/or permanent legal status for victims and witnesses of trafficking who lack legal status.

IV. The Attorney General to review existing U.S. criminal laws and their current use to determine if they are adequate to prevent and deter trafficking in women and girls, to recommend any appropriate legal changes to ensure that trafficking is criminalized and that the consequences of trafficking are significant, and to review current prosecution efforts against traffickers in order to identify additional intelligence sources, evidentiary needs and resource capabilities.

V. The Secretary of State to use our diplomatic presence around the world to work with source, transit, and destination countries to develop strategies for protecting and assisting victims of trafficking and to expand and enhance anti-fraud training to stop the international trafficking of women and girls.

VI. The Secretary of State to coordinate an intergovernmental response to the Government of Ukraine's request to jointly develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to combat trafficking in women and girls from and to Ukraine. The U.S.-Ukraine cooperation will serve as a model for a multi-disciplinary approach to combat trafficking that can be expanded to other countries.

VII. The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Attorney General, to expand and strengthen assistance to the international community in developing and enacting legislation to combat trafficking in women and girls, to provide assistance to victims of trafficking, and to continue to expand efforts to train legal and law enforcement personnel worldwide.

VIII. The Secretary of State and the Director of the United States Information Agency to expand public awareness campaigns targeted to warn potential victims of the methods used by traffickers.

IX. The President's Interagency Council on Women to convene a gathering of government and nongovernment representatives from source, transit, and destination countries and representatives from international organizations to call attention to the issue of trafficking in women and girls and to develop strategies for combating this fundamental human rights violation.

352486D3.FIN

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

#

4

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 2/5/99 8:39:08 PM
FROM Wozniak, Natalie S.
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT RBTP and the First Lady at Microenterprise Event, The East Room [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Crowley, Philip J.
Gobush, Matthew N.
Hammer, Michael A.
Hurwitz, Marc I.
Leavy, David C.
Wozniak, Natalie S.
Gray, Wendy E.
Halperin, David E.
Malinowski, Tomasz P.
Widmer, Edward L. (Ted)

CARBON_COPY

TEXT_BODY Remarks by the President
RBTP and the First Lady at Microenterprise
Event, The East Room

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT

Microenterprise Event.doc
THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release February 5, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AND THE FIRST LADY
AT MICROENTERPRISE EVENT

The East Room

2:20 P.M. EST

MRS. CLINTON: Welcome and please be seated. The President and I are delighted to have you all here for the second presentation of the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Microenterprise Development.

Each of today's awardees is showing the power of microenterprise, the power to transform welfare checks to paychecks, poverty to economic growth and income, despair to hope. Later in the program we'll hear from Carol Willoughby, who will tell us how her life and family was forever changed by microenterprise.

I had the chance to see Carol's work firsthand at a speech I gave last April at a microenterprise meeting. She had made the banners hanging behind the podium -- or, rather, I should say, her company had made them because with opportunity and hard work, that's what she has created, a thriving business. And the name of that company, as you've heard, appropriately enough, is Let The Whole World Know.

Well, when it came time to pick someone to participate in this program, it was a very difficult choice because the stories from all of these award winners are going to really warm your heart and make you understand our commitment to microenterprise. But Let The Whole World Know really sounded a theme that we wanted to make sure could be sounded here.

There are many people in this room who have worked for years to make this day possible, and I want to recognize and thank them, starting with Secretary Rubin, who has led the Treasury in exemplary ways at the micro level, but also understood the importance of the micro, as well as the macro. And so I'm grateful to him and the work that's been done at the Treasury Department.

Senator Don Riegle, I believe is here -- former Senator -- and Don, thank you for the work you did in championing the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund while you were in the Senate. And there are other members of Congress I want to thank: Senator Harkin, Senator Kennedy, Senator Wellstone, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, Congressman Oberstar.

And as well as our officials from the Congress, we also have the Lieutenant Governor of Iowa, Sally Peterson, and a number of the agency heads who are responsible for the government's microenterprise program, starting with USAID Administrator Brian Atwood, as well as the Deputy Administrator, Hattie Babbitt; Small Business Administrator Aida Alvarez; CDFI Director Ellen Lazar; the Director of the National Economic Council, Gene Sperling; Mary Ellen Withrow, the Treasurer of the United States; and a former OMB Director who was on the team for microenterprise, Frank Raines.

I want to thank all of you, and the people you work with, for the extraordinary job you have done.

You know, many of us have heard about microenterprise over a number of years. Bill and I were trying to determine when we had heard about it -- and as we get older it seems harder to remember. (Laughter.) We think it was somewhere in the early '80s, somewhere between '84 and '86. And we had heard about this because it was an idea that had been transplanted from Bangladesh to the South Shore Bank in Chicago, a place that I am very familiar with. And I was very anxious to learn more about how microenterprise was transforming both rural areas, among some of the poorest people on our planet, and urban areas in our own city.

I have been, now, around our country and around the world, meeting with people who are the recipients of microenterprise awards. And I have been just struck, time and time again, by the heroic stories that they tell. I'll never forget the look of pride on the face of a woman I met from Guatemala, who told me that with the help of a small loan, she had gone from being a mango seller on the streets to owning a market stall, and eventually running a small business with 15 employees. So from the time she had started on the streets selling mangoes, to the age of 12, she had had a long, hard effort of a lot of work, but it paid off. And she told me with great pride that she was sending her son to college in the

United States.

In Western India, I walked into a women's bank, which had only one room and the teller's counter was an old kitchen table and bank clerks transcribed all of the recorded transactions by hand on yellow sheets of paper. But while I was there I met women who walked 12 to 15 hours from remote villages to take out loans -- some as small as \$1, to invest in dairy cows, plows or goods to sell at market. These women were among some of the poorest and least educated of all Indians. But their loan repayment rate was nearly 100 percent, and they told me what they had done with their loans and how that had transformed their lives, enabling them to give their children better housing, health care and other opportunities.

I was also very pleased last year in Africa when I accompanied the President and the President of the Uganda to a microenterprise site in a village some distance from the capital of Kampala. I don't think that a head of state had ever visited a village site of a microenterprise group, and I know that two heads of state at the same time have never done that. (Laughter.) And I was delighted that both the President and President Museveni had the same reaction that I always have -- a great deal of interest and a great deal of pride in what they were hearing on behalf of the people who were telling their stories.

But microenterprise had not only transformed lives abroad, they are transforming lives right here at home. I remember visiting the Mi Casa Microlending Program in Denver and speaking to a group of women who told me about how they had had good ideas, but they couldn't get any capital anywhere. One woman memorably remarked, you know, a lot of good ideas die in the parking lots of banks. (Laughter.) She said, you know, I knew I was a good baker, I knew I could open a bakery, I knew I could employ people -- but I didn't have any collateral and the amount of money that I wanted was below the lending limit of the bank. Well, thanks to microenterprise, she was doing what she had dreamed of.

The origin of these awards go back to the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, when I pledged on behalf of the President and the administration a commitment to spread microenterprise and microlending through our nations; and also to have these awards, as well. We've now seen the fruits of that effort, from one end of our country to the other and you're going to hear about some of the exemplary programs in just a few minutes.

I believe that this is part of the President's strong initiative to try to bring free enterprise and capital development to those parts of our country that are still left out. You know, we've done extraordinarily well thanks to the leadership of the President and the Secretary of Treasury and the others in the administration.

But we still have a ways to go in some of our inner- city neighborhoods in some of our rural areas, and in some of our Indian communities, particularly. So what we're trying to do is to say we want a multi-pronged strategy to provide economic opportunity to every American willing to work hard to achieve it on his or her behalf.

And no one understands the importance of the free enterprise system, and the need for us to spread its benefits to every American, than someone who has worked tirelessly over the past years to ensure that every American would have an opportunity to be successful. And it is my great honor and personal privilege to introduce to you the Secretary of the Treasury, Bob Rubin. (Applause.)

* * * * *

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Carol, you better watch it, before you know it you'll be running for office. (Laughter.) What a remarkable statement -- thank you so much.

I'd like to take a little -- a few moments more than I normally would by way of introduction today. Hillary and I and Bob Rubin are real happy today, because this is one of the things that I ran for President to do. To see these stories, to see the spirit, and to see the potential.

I want to thank Secretary Rubin. You know, I used to tell a joke about Bob Rubin. He's been here a long time now, and he left this fabulous career on Wall Street. And I used to tell everybody that I asked Bob Rubin to come to Washington in 1993 to help me save the middle class, and by the time he leaves he'll be one of them. (Laughter.)

SECRETARY RUBIN: That always seems a lot funnier to you, Mr. President.

(Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I don't know how much it's cost him to stay here these six years, but one of the reasons that I really wanted him to come is that when we -- even in the beginning, when we began talking about these matters in '92, he always said, you know, I'd like to get the economy going again and working again, and then we could maybe really do something for poor people in this country. Maybe we could really bring the spirit of enterprise to all these places that have been left behind.

I don't know how many Secretaries of the Treasury in our country's history have ever had that sort of driving passion. But I know we had one, and he's done a magnificent job. And I'm very grateful to him. (Applause.)

I want to thank Senator Harkin, Senator Kennedy, Senator Wellstone, Congressman Oberstar, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton for supporting this economic vision so strongly. I thank former Senator Riegle, who is here, who was the committee chairman who helped us to make this a critical part, this whole microenterprise, a critical part of our economic strategy way back in 1993.

I welcome Lieutenant Governor Sally Peterson from Iowa; we're delighted to have her here with her honorees. I want to thank our former OMB Director, Frank Raines; Mary Ellen Withrow, our Treasurer; Ellen Lazar and others who have supported our efforts here. A special word of thanks to Aida Alvarez and Betsy Myers and all the other members of her team from SBA who are here. And to Brian Atwood and Hattie Babbitt and the others from AID -- I believe that under our administration we funded 2 million of these small microenterprise loans, from Africa to Asia to Latin America, last year.

There's one group of people who have not been acknowledged -- and Hillary and I were talking about it -- who were out there ahead of the federal government for years, without whom microenterprise never would have really taken off in America, and that's all the members of the foundation community. I'd like to -- all the representatives of the foundations that are here that have supported microenterprise lending, I'd like to ask you to stand, please, and be acknowledged. Thank you. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

And I'll say more about this in a minute, but this whole issue has been a passion for the First Lady for, as she said, about 15 years. We had a friend who was working at the South Shore Bank in Chicago, which had a microenterprise loan program. We went there, we saw what they were doing.

Then in 1984 I was able to meet, here in Washington -- I was here at a governor's meeting, I'll never forget it. I got up early one morning and had breakfast with Muhammad Yunus, who had been trained as an economist in the United States and then gone to Bangladesh and set up the Grameen Bank. Hundreds of thousands of loans had been made -- market interest rates -- very tiny loans, almost all to poor village women. The repayment rate was better than the commercial banks in Bangladesh, and it changed my thinking about this forever.

And then Hillary scrounged up some foundation money, and other money, and I squeezed some out of the Arkansas legislature and we started a development bank with a microenterprise program in Arkansas. And after I became President, she literally has gone all across the world. She's been in small villages on every continent, where people like her never go.

And I should tell the rest of the story because I don't think President Museveni would object. I have the highest regard for the President of Uganda. He's one of the most intelligent and effective leaders of any developing country anywhere in the world. But when we were walking on this little rocky pathway into this village to see all these village women who now had their own businesses, he looked at me and he said, that's some wife you've got. He said, until you showed up here I didn't even know we had these programs in our country. (Laughter.)

So, without her we probably wouldn't be here today. And I'm very, very grateful for everything that Hillary has done to champion this cause. (Applause.)

I also want to say a word of appreciation to Carol and all the other small business owners here. It takes a lot of courage to run a small business. Hillary and I have talked about this a lot -- she talked to me about one time when she was a high school girl she worked in a small business in her home town, and there were days when no one came in. Every day, if you open a small business, you feel like politicians feel on election day. (Laughter.)

I'll never forget -- I can't remember, one of the great old Hollywood moguls said, you know, if you make a bad movie, the people will stay away and you cannot stop them. (Laughter.) Which I think is a great -- so I want to thank all of you for having the spirit of enterprise and the vision and the courage.

This whole country is basically built by entrepreneurs, whether they're in Silicon Valley or young investment bankers in Manhattan or people running the street-vending operations out here for the tourists in Washington. The genius of actually being able to have an idea and act on it, and having people respond to it and invest in it and be your customers and, as Carol said, in a way validate your ideas, your character and your hard work, it's the whole secret of America.

And because of the strength of our economy, I believe we have an obligation to give that opportunity to everyone. Just this morning we learned that what is now the longest peacetime expansion in American history has grown longer. Last month our economy created nearly another quarter-million jobs, and unemployment stayed at 4.3 percent. That's the lowest peacetime rate since 1957. Wages now rising at over twice the rate of inflation; again, unemployment rates among Hispanic and African Americans dropped to their lowest recorded levels ever.

Now, if we cannot expand opportunity into every corner of America now, we will never get around to it. We have an obligation now to spread the spirit and the opportunity for enterprise to all the American people. As you've heard from others, we've been working on this for six years now -- working to bring opportunities to some of our most distressed communities, with an agenda of empowerment. That's what we celebrate here. Not a hand out, a hand up. This microenterprise program is the embodiment of empowerment.

We know -- and I was so glad to hear what Carol said about self-esteem, because sometimes a crisis of economic distress is a crisis of the spirit as well; a shortage of confidence that is just as debilitating as a shortage of cash. And these stories today -- I want all of you to imagine not only the economic success, but what it has done to these people's lives. There are stories like this all over America and all over the world.

What does it mean to a single mom's life when she goes to the mailbox in the

morning and sees a bank statement instead of a welfare check? What does it mean to a child when he or she can go to school and say, when they ask, "What does your mother do for a living?" -- she owns a beauty shop? What does it mean to a neighborhood when, all of a sudden, an old building that has been vacant for 10 years has a "help wanted" sign out in front of it?

This is about more than economics. And through our network of community development banks -- or CDFIs, as we call them, community development financial institutions -- through the strengthened and streamlined Community Reinvestment Act -- and I will say that even though that act has been on the books for more than 20 years now, 95 percent of all the investment under Community Reinvestment has been done in the last six years, in our administration. And I'm proud of that. (Applause.) And the banks are doing quite well. (Laughter.) They're doing well by doing good. And it's important to remember as the debate develops this year about that. And through these empowerment zones, we've seen the steady expansion of opportunity.

Last month, as the Secretary said, I announced this new markets initiative, to spur even more private investment in under-served areas. And we want to reach -- building a bridge from Wall Street to Harlem to Appalachia, to the Mississippi Delta, to South Texas, to Pine Ridge, South Dakota -- everywhere there are opportunities still untapped.

Today I am proud to announce that, as a part of our budget, we would more than double our support for microenterprise in America. We would continue our -- (applause) -- thank you.

We also want to continue our efforts to promote microenterprise abroad, especially in the nations that have been hardest hit by the global financial crisis, or by our neighbors hit by natural disasters. And I think that is very important, because we are giving courage and awareness to other governments, and other countries, to do more for their own people in this regard.

First, we recognize that, for the vast majority of micro-entrepreneurs, good ideas and credit are just the beginning. A little guidance -- lessons on accounting, billing, planning -- those things are essential for any business to thrive in a complex economy. The budget doubles the Small Business

Administration's capacity to provide such training through its micro-loan program, triples support for SBA's one-stop capital shops, which offer micro-lending advice and other assistance in disadvantaged communities. I'm also proud to support the bipartisan program for investments in micro-entrepreneurs -- the PRIME Act, sponsored by Senator Kennedy and Senator Domenici from New Mexico, Representatives -- (applause) -- and Representatives Rush, Leach and LaFalce, so that we can expand our technical assistance through the Treasury's CDFI fund.

Second, we want to make even more credit available to low-income Americans with good business ideas. That's why I'm proposing to leverage more than \$75 million in new loans by doubling our support for the SBA's micro-loan program. (Applause.)

Third, we want to keep encouraging Americans to save some of their own hard-earned money, to start or expand businesses. Last year, I was proud to sign new individual development accounts into law, fulfilling a campaign pledge from 1992, and thanks in no small measure to the leadership of Senator Tom Harkin from Iowa and former Senator Dan Coats from Indiana. We thank you very much, Senators, for that. Thank you. (Applause.)

For those of you who don't know, these individual development accounts -- IDAs -- are special accounts that provide federal matching funds to low-income Americans who save money to invest in their business, buy a first home, pay for a college education. I want to double support for these accounts in our budget.

Next, we will continue to lead the world through USAID to promote microenterprise for millions of families to get out of poverty in other countries. The recent local financial crisis and the hurricanes in Central America and the Caribbean have literally upended the lives of tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands of people. As you have heard from the First Lady's account, we have seen firsthand how these loans -- sometimes in other countries loans as small as \$10, \$15, \$25, \$50 can make all the difference in helping families to get back on their feet.

Our balanced budget will target extra microenterprise assistance to the countries that are in trouble. And to break down the bureaucratic walls that block microenterprise in some developing countries, we'll continue to work with

the World Bank and other financial institutions to reform the regulatory structures so we can make more of these loans available. There is a virtually unlimited potential abroad and at home for this, and I keep hoping if we just keep pushing and keep pushing and keep pushing we will reach a critical mass of investment which will explode it and let the whole world know that this works. (Applause.)

And this ceremony today is a part of letting the whole world know. So we come here not only to honor you with these Presidential Awards for Excellence in Microenterprise, but to say to the world that these six organizations whose vision and commitment have made such a profound difference in the lives of the business owners, their employees and their customers are but a small beginning of what we could achieve together in the United States and throughout the world if we work harder to make the economy work for ordinary citizens.

And so this, too, is a part of letting the whole world know. And when you come up here and get your awards I hope that you will not only feel enormous pride, I hope that you will not only feel an enormous sense of rededication to further success, I hope you will feel that you are sending a message to people who will see this all over America, or read about it in their newspapers. And you may be sparking someone else's conviction either that, A, they ought to set up one of these funds, or B, they ought to find one and get a loan.

And I believe that we will continue to see the steady march of progress here. This has the potential to revolutionize not only the lives of ordinary Americans, but the whole way we organize our economy here and around the world.

So, first: For excellence in the category of Access to Capital, the Microcredit Industry Rural Organization. Since 1987, MICRO has provided some \$5.5 million in loans to more than 1,000 entrepreneurs living in rural Arizona's poorest Hispanic communities. Accepting this award is Executive Director Frank Ballett, and entrepreneur Maria Jesus Gaxiola, a former migrant farm worker who used a \$1,500 loan to build her own cosmetics business -- and I might say, she's a remarkable walking advertisement for her success. (Laughter.) Please come up here. (Applause.)

Next, for excellence in Developing Entrepreneurial Skills, the Detroit

Entrepreneurship Institute. Founded at Wayne State University, the Institute has worked to teach low-income clients the full range of business skills. Clients can also take advantage of a free computer center, a tax preparation service, and graphic design department to help launch and expand their businesses. Accepting this award is Cathy McClelland, the President and CEO; and Jackie Tucker, who started a successful catering business after training at the Institute. I'd like to ask them to come up now. (Applause.)

Also for excellence in Developing Entrepreneurial Skills, the Northeast Entrepreneur Fund of Virginia, Minnesota. (Laughter.) In the Iron Range, north of Duluth. Serving rural communities throughout a 20,000 square mile area, the Fund offers one-on-one counseling to clients, helping them to tailor their studies to specific needs. Accepting this award is the Fund's President, Mary Mathews; and our star speaker today -- (laughter) -- Carol Willoughby. (Applause.)

For excellence in Poverty Alleviation, the Institute for Social and Economic Development of Iowa. One of the earliest statewide microenterprise efforts in the nation, the Institute -- listen to this -- has helped 90 percent of its welfare clients free themselves from lives of dependency through self-employment.

Accepting this award today is John Else, founder and president; and entrepreneur Rhonda Auten, a former welfare recipient who started her own dance school with help from ISED. (Applause.)

(The award was presented.)

For excellence in private support for microenterprise development, the Corporation for Enterprise Development. For two decades -- through research, public education and technical assistance to entrepreneurs and organizations -- the Corporation has fostered so much of the progress we see today, including the success of three of this year's award winners. We are all -- including all of us in this administration -- profoundly indebted to the awardee, the Corporation, and its founder and chairman, Mr. Robert Friedman. (Applause.)

(The award was presented.)

For excellence in public support for microenterprise development, the Montana Microbusiness Finance Program. As part of the Montana Department of Commerce, this program has helped to launch or sustain a dozen microlending organizations serving communities throughout that vast and beautiful state. Accepting this award are program officer Robyn Hampton and entrepreneurs Kevin and Heidi Snyder, who used a microloan to start their racquetball and fitness centers. They are two walking advertisements for what they're doing, as you can see. (Laughter.) Come on up. (Applause.)

(The award was presented.)

Now, don't you feel better than you did when you got up this morning?
(Laughter.) Isn't this great?

Henry Ford -- a small entrepreneur -- once said that the best Americans were those with "an infinite capacity to not know what can't be done." We honor today those kinds of Americans -- testaments to the power of enterprise, and the strength of the human spirit.

I ask you to leave here committed to work in the years ahead to bring this spirit, and this opportunity, to every corner of every community in our land and on our globe.

Thank you very much, and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

3:03 P.M. EST

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 02/28/2000 7:20:04 AM
FROM Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI)
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT FW: women 2000 general assembly conf. [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)

CARBON_COPY**TEXT_BODY**

Let's talk about this.

-----Original Message-----

From: Patten,
Wendy L. (MULTI)
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2000 6:18 PM
To: Schwartz,
Eric P. (MULTI)
Cc: @MULTILAT - Multilateral and Humanitarian
Affairs
Subject: RE: women 2000 general assembly conf. [UNCLASSIFIED]

ERIC

-- PLEASE REVIEW. THANKS -- WLP

To: Mara and Bob
From: Wendy
Through:
Eric

I did some homework on your inquiry. This conference could be as successful as the Beijing women's conference, but there are a number of unanswered questions that make it difficult to assess at this point. We therefore recommend that the President not commit to participate until after the March prepcomm, at which point we will have more information about how the conference will unfold.

* This event, also known as Beijing Plus Five, will review progress on implementing the Beijing Platform of Action since the 1995 conference. Although some criticism is inevitable, we do not anticipate problems on any major issues related to the Platform. Essentially, our message is that, while there is more to do, much progress has been made since Beijing.

* There is a very real potential, however, for the right to mischaracterize the conference and to attack provisions in the Platform that displease them, particularly abortion/reproductive rights and gay and lesbian rights. While these issues are hardly new, this event could provide a forum for Helms, Chris Smith and other conservatives to criticize the Administration. They are clearly focused on the conference. Sen. Helms has been sending a staffer to the intersessional meetings. The Administration's Beijing Plus Five team is working hard to prevent any mischaracterization by conservatives, but the possibility remains.

* At this point, we have no idea whether heads of state will attend the conference. Present expectations are that countries will send heads of women's ministries or women's commissions. The President's participation might prompt more heads of state to attend, but we cannot count on him being part of a sizable group of heads of state addressing the conference. Moreover, his schedule prevents him from being in New York during the first few days of the conference, which is when heads of state would normally expect to participate.

* The U.N. staff responsible for managing the conference is disorganized. We do not know whether a conference document will be produced. (Typically, an outcomes document would have undergone a couple of readings by this point). It is also unclear whether there will be an effort to reopen provisions of the 1995 Platform of Action that were most controversial, such as abortion, as groups attempted to do at the Cairo Plus Five conference.

* Despite the problems with official conference preparations, the USG is organizing a series of events around the conference that should play positively. We are coordinating an NGO satellite conference, and several cabinet heads will participate in women-focused events related to areas of expertise.

* The President's participation would undoubtedly signal strong USG commitment to advancing women's issues globally, which argues in favor of NSC support for his participation if things seem solidly on track as the conference nears. If, however, we decide that the President should not attend, the First Lady and MKA's presence would also send a strong message and would provide a nice symmetry with the 1995 Beijing conference, where they led the US delegation.

Eric and Wendy

-----Original Message-----

From: Bradtke,
Robert A. (EXSEC)
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2000 10:53 AM
To: @MULTILAT
- Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs
Cc: @EXECSEC - Executive
Secretary; @NSA - Natl Security Advisor
Subject: women 2000 general
assembly conf. [UNCLASSIFIED]

eric:
scheduling tells me that
the president wants to make an appearance at this event. (there
has been a big push from the first lady's office, and ann lewis.)
as far as i know, we have never recommended it, but i assume we
wouldn't against. i think the best way to get this back into channels
would be for multi to do a scheduling proposal. scheduling is looking
at trying to do this on june 9 (the end of the week date is meant
to accommodate the president's trip to europe that spill into the
middle of that week.) could you put something together so we can
get sandy's signoff?

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 02/28/2000 5:00:47 PM
FROM Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT women 2000 general assembly conf. [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Bradtke, Robert A. (EXSEC)
Gray, Wendy E. (NSA)
Rudman, Mara E. (NSA)

CARBON_COPY Bartlett, L. June (EXSEC)
Bash, Brooks L. (EXSEC)
Bradtke, Robert A. (EXSEC)
Gire, Cynthia L. (EXSEC)
Gray, Wendy E. (NSA)
Hilliard, Brenda I. (EXSEC)
Jacobson, Tracey A. (ADMIN)
Joshi, M. Kay (EXSEC)
Millison, Cathy L. (EXSEC)
Powell, Elliott (WHSR/EXSEC)
Wasserman, Elaine P. (EXSEC)
Feldman, Daniel F. (MULTI)
Guarnieri, Valerie N. (MULTI)
Kale, Dora A. (MULTI)
McClean, Matthew K. (MULTI)
Naplan, Steven J. (MULTI)
Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI)
Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Wilcox, Richard M. (MULTI)

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To: Mara and Bob
From: Wendy
Through: Eric

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* This event, also known

as Beijing Plus Five, will review progress on implementing the Beijing Platform of Action since the 1995 conference. Although some criticism is inevitable, we do not anticipate problems on any major issues related to the Platform, largely because the U.S. has been active in key areas identified in the Platform. Essentially, our message is that, while there is more to do, much progress has been made since Beijing.

- * There is a very real potential, however, for opponents of the Platform to mischaracterize the conference and to attack provisions such as those related to abortion/reproductive rights and gay and lesbian rights. The resulting debate could frustrate other Administration foreign policy objectives that might be linked to the Conference (such as funding for family planning or CEDAW ratification).

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Sent: Tuesday,

February 15, 2000 10:53 AM

To: @MULTILAT - Multilateral and Humanitarian
Affairs

Cc: @EXECSEC - Executive Secretary; @NSA - Natl Security
Advisor

Subject: women 2000 general assembly conf. [UNCLASSIFIED]

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Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 11/15/2000 11:13:44 AM

FROM Bernard, Kenneth W. (HEALTH)

CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT Health as a human right. [UNCLASSIFIED]

TO Efros, Laura L. (NEC)

CARBON_COPY Banbury, Anthony "Tony" N. (MULTI)
Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI)
Naplan, Steven J. (MULTI)
Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
Peterson-Becker, Augustine "Gusti" (ADMIN)
Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI)
Shea, Dorothy C. (MULTILAT)
Smith, Peter D. R. (MULTI)
Tierney, Mary "Theresa" T. (MULTI)
Wilcox, Richard M. (MULTI)

TEXT_BODY Talked with State/DRL who talked with their legal advisor. Bottom line agrees with Wendy:

Intl Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights Art. 12 states: "States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health." This language has been repeated as "Beijing plus 5" and Copenhagen plus 5" this year, and was in the original action document from the Beijing Women's Conference in 1995. It is the international standard and we should insist it be repeated (if the Japanese still want something in the G-8 document.....)

-Ken